



YARRAMAN PARK

17TH March 2021

The Secretary
Department of Planning, Industry and Environment
4 Parramatta Square
12 Darcy Street
Parramatta NSW 2150

Email Transmission: Lauren.Evans@planning.nsw.gov.au

MOUNT PLEASANT OPTIMISATION PROJECT: SSD 10418

Yarraman Park is one of Australia's leading studs and vendors of both yearlings and broodmares and has been home to thoroughbreds for over 100 years. It is the birthplace of the great champion Eurythmic, foaled in 1916.

For over 50 years, Yarraman Park has been owned and run by the Mitchell family.

Yarraman Park is a world class facility consisting of approximately 1500 hectares of mineral rich, undulating country. Yarraman Park stands highly credentialed stallions and a top class broodmare band, which is constantly being upgraded to support the Yarraman Park stallions as well as visiting leading Australian Stallions.

We oppose the Mount Pleasant Optimisation Project.

The impacts of mining (particularly air quality, visual and noise impacts) on the Upper Hunter community in and around the towns of Aberdeen and Muswellbrook have grown much worse since the Mount Pleasant commenced operations. Air quality and dust deposition is already exceeding acceptable levels in this area. A doubling of mining output over a prolonged 22 years will only exacerbate these impacts and the community's health and wellbeing.

We are concerned that this massive extension in the mining footprint and depth of mining will impact both groundwater and surface water and impact the highly productive alluvials of the Hunter River and the Kingdon ponds upon which our operations and community rely.

We are particularly concerned about potential dewatering drawdowns (estimated at 100m) from the project alone and potentially over 200m when the combined effects of surrounding mines are taken into account. This is an unacceptable impact for our community, agricultural businesses and operations like ours that rely on water for their livelihoods.

Equally troubling is the creation of a final void, which will take centuries to fill and reach equilibrium and increasing in salinity each year. There are already some 40 planned or existing final voids in the Hunter Valley. We do not want another one.

Mining in the Upper Hunter is destroying our rural character, our landscape and environment, devaluing our properties, dividing our community and affecting our health and wellbeing.

The Mount Pleasant Operations is the first mine that is expanding and traversing to the north far too close to the towns of Aberdeen and Muswellbrook. The visual, noise and dust impacts are already unacceptable.

We strongly oppose a doubling of the current extraction rate and a further 22 years of mining when we already know this mine is adding to air quality and noise exceedances.

By its own admission MACH has previously conceded that air quality and noise exceedances already occur due to the cumulative impacts of both Mt Arthur and Bengalla mines. This should have been an indisputable reason why the Mount Pleasant Operation should not have been allowed to proceed in the first place and should not be allowed to further extend its operations now.

The proposal that this expansion will create a 6km overburden dump, 360m high and visible to all who reside nearby, from our towns and those who come to our region (including clients, visitors and tourists) crosses the line.


This man-made overburden dump will damage and alter our landscape, truncate our views and light, impose a dramatic irreversible change to the landscape character of our area and towns. It will ruin the area's reputation and its ability to attract agricultural investment and tourism. It is completely unacceptable. The NSW Government should not contemplate, let alone allow, this level of destruction to the environment and the Hunter's visual landscape by one mine.

We support the Hunter Thoroughbred Breeders' Association submission and their call for the NSW Government to independently undertake a comprehensive cumulative assessment of this proposal's impacts in addition to all others that currently operate or are planned in this region.

March 17, 2021

At a time when Governments in Australia and NSW, and indeed the world, are making commitments and taking steps to transition away from coal and high emitting industries, the Hunter Valley is besieged by mining proposals. We are already oversaturated and at risk of losing the very diversity that will see this region through any post-mining transition. The time has come for some responsibility to be taken to stop the unacceptable spread of mining in this area and protect to the residents of this community, our environment, health, sustainable industries and futures.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, reading "Arthur Mitchell", is centered within a faint, light-colored oval stamp. The stamp appears to be a circular official seal, though its details are too faded to discern clearly.

Arthur Mitchell